

# Document made available under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

International application number: PCT/GB05/000685

International filing date: 24 February 2005 (24.02.2005)

Document type: Certified copy of priority document

Document details: Country/Office: GB  
Number: 0404369.1  
Filing date: 26 February 2004 (26.02.2004)

Date of receipt at the International Bureau: 01 April 2005 (01.04.2005)

Remark: Priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b)



World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) - Geneva, Switzerland  
Organisation Mondiale de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OMPI) - Genève, Suisse



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The Patent Office  
Concept House  
Cardiff Road  
Newport  
South Wales  
NP10 8QQ

I, the undersigned, being an officer duly authorised in accordance with Section 74(1) and (4) of the Deregulation & Contracting Out Act 1994, to sign and issue certificates on behalf of the Comptroller-General, hereby certify that annexed hereto is a true copy of the documents as originally filed in connection with the patent application identified therein.

In accordance with the Patents (Companies Re-registration) Rules 1982, if a company named in this certificate and any accompanying documents has re-registered under the Companies Act 1980 with the same name as that with which it was registered immediately before re-registration save for the substitution as, or inclusion as, the last part of the name of the words "public limited company" or their equivalents in Welsh, references to the name of the company in this certificate and any accompanying documents shall be treated as references to the name with which it is so re-registered.

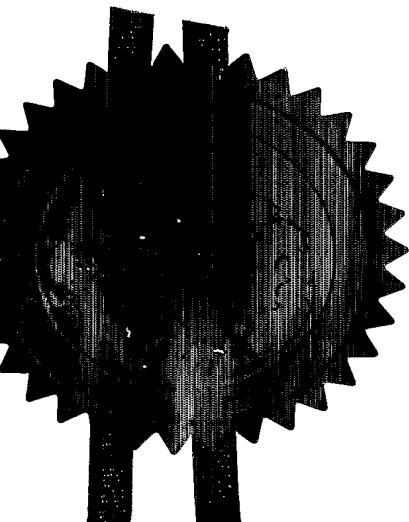
In accordance with the rules, the words "public limited company" may be replaced by p.l.c., plc, P.L.C. or PLC.

Re-registration under the Companies Act does not constitute a new legal entity but merely subjects the company to certain additional company law rules.

Signed

Dated

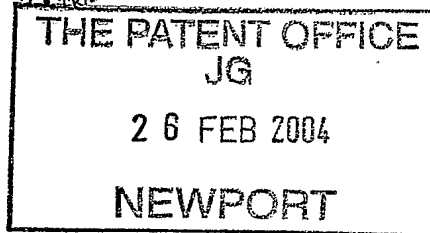
18 March 2005







28FEB04 E876774-1 D10100  
P01/7700 0.00-0404369.1 NONE



The Patent Office

Cardiff Road  
Newport  
South Wales  
NP10 8QQ

# Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

1. Your reference

CPG/P/265/GBA

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0404369.1

26 FEB 2004

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

HAMLET Ltd  
5 Heath Close  
London  
NW11 7DS  
United Kingdom

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

8816928001

4. Title of the invention

Novel Therapies

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

Carol P. Greaves et al.

Greaves Brewster  
Indigo House, Cheddar Business Park  
Wedmore Road, Cheddar  
Somerset  
BS27 3EB  
GB 7885908002

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number  
(if you know it)

Date of filing  
(day / month / year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing  
(day / month / year)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
- b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
- c) any named applicant is a corporate body.

See note (d))

Yes

# Patents Form 1/77

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form. Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form

Description	14
Claim(s)	3
Abstract	1
Drawing(s)	3 <i>13</i>

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (*Patents Form 7/77*)

Request for preliminary examination and search (*Patents Form 9/77*)

Request for substantive examination (*Patents Form 10/77*)

Any other documents  
(*please specify*)

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature



Date

*26/2/04*

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Carol Greaves 01934 745880

## Warning

After an application for a patent has been filed, the Comptroller of the Patent Office will consider whether publication or communication of the invention should be prohibited or restricted under Section 22 of the Patents Act 1977. You will be informed if it is necessary to prohibit or restrict your invention in this way. Furthermore, if you live in the United Kingdom, Section 23 of the Patents Act 1977 stops you from applying for a patent abroad without first getting written permission from the Patent Office unless an application has been filed at least 6 weeks beforehand in the United Kingdom for a patent for the same invention and either no direction prohibiting publication or communication has been given, or any such direction has been revoked.

## Notes

- If you need help to fill in this form or you have any questions, please contact the Patent Office on 08459 500505.
- Write your answers in capital letters using black ink or you may type them.
- If there is not enough space for all the relevant details on any part of this form, please continue on a separate sheet of paper and write "see continuation sheet" in the relevant part(s). Any continuation sheet should be attached to this form.
- If you have answered 'Yes' Patents Form 7/77 will need to be filed.
- Once you have filled in the form you must remember to sign and date it.
- For details of the fee and ways to pay please contact the Patent Office.

## Novel Therapies

The present invention relates to methods for inhibiting angiogenesis, as well as to the use of certain reagents in the preparation of medicaments for inhibiting angiogenesis.

5

Angiogenesis is the process of forming new blood vessels. It occurs normally in the human body at specific times in development and growth. For example, the embryo needs a vast network of arteries, veins, and capillaries. A process called  
10 *vasculogenesis* creates the primary network of vascular endothelial cells that will become major blood vessels. Later on, angiogenesis remodels this network into the small new blood vessels or capillaries that complete the child's circulatory system.

15

Proliferation of new blood vessels also takes place in adults. In women, angiogenesis is active a few days each month as new blood vessels form in the lining of the uterus during the menstrual cycle. Also, angiogenesis is necessary for the repair  
20 or regeneration of tissue during wound healing.

The vascular endothelial cell rarely divides, unless stimulated by angiogenesis. Angiogenesis is regulated by both *activator* and inhibitor molecules. Normally, the inhibitors predominate,  
25 blocking growth. Should a need for new blood vessels arise, angiogenesis activators increase in number and inhibitors decrease thus prompting the growth and division of vascular endothelial cells and, ultimately, the formation of new blood vessels.

30

Before the 1960s, cancer researchers believed that the blood supply reached tumors simply because pre-existing blood vessels dilated. But later experiments showed that angiogenesis is  
35 necessary for cancerous tumors to keep growing and spreading.

Tumor angiogenesis is the proliferation of a network of blood vessels that penetrates into cancerous growths, supplying

nutrients and oxygen and removing waste products. It starts when tumor cells release molecules that send signals to surrounding normal host tissue, activating certain genes and proteins to encourage growth of new blood vessels.

5

Small activator molecules produced by the cancer cells signal angiogenesis in the surrounding tissue. More than a dozen different proteins, as well as several smaller molecules, have been identified as "angiogenic". Among these are vascular endothelial growth factor (*VEGF*) and basic fibroblast growth factor (*bFGF*). *VEGF* and *bFGF* are produced by many kinds of cancer cells and by certain types of normal cells, too.

10

*VEGF* and *bFGF* are first synthesized inside tumor cells and then secreted into the surrounding tissue. The binding of either *VEGF* or *bFGF* to appropriate receptors activates a signalling cascade into the nucleus of the endothelial cells. The nuclear signal ultimately prompts a group of genes to make products needed for new endothelial cell growth.

15

20

The activation of endothelial cells by *VEGF* or *bFGF* sets in motion a series of steps toward the creation of new blood vessels. First, the activated endothelial cells produce matrix metalloproteinases (*MMPs*), a special class of degradative enzymes. These enzymes are then released from the endothelial cells into the surrounding tissue. The *MMPs* break down the extracellular matrix-support material that fills the spaces between cells and is made of proteins and polysaccharides. Breakdown of this matrix permits the migration of endothelial cells. As they migrate into the surrounding tissues, activated endothelial cells begin to divide. Soon they organize into hollow tubes that evolve gradually into a mature network of blood vessels.

25

30

Although many tumors produce angiogenic molecules such as *VEGF* and *bFGF*, their presence is not enough to begin blood vessel growth. For angiogenesis to begin, these activator molecules

35

must overcome a variety of angiogenesis inhibitors that normally restrain blood vessel growth.

Almost a dozen naturally occurring proteins can inhibit  
5 angiogenesis. Among this group of molecules, proteins called  
*angiostatin*, *endostatin*, and *thrombospondin* appear to be  
especially important. A finely tuned balance, between the  
concentration of angiogenesis inhibitors and of activators such  
as VEGF and bFGF, determines whether a tumor can induce the  
10 growth of new blood vessels. To trigger angiogenesis, the  
production of activators must increase as the production of  
inhibitors decreases.

The discovery of angiogenesis inhibitors raises the question of  
15 whether such molecules might therapeutically halt or restrain  
cancer's growth. Researchers have addressed this question in  
numerous experiments involving animals. In one striking study,  
mice with several different kinds of cancer were treated with  
injections of endostatin. After a few cycles of treatment, the  
20 initial (primary) tumor formed at the site of the injected  
cancer cells almost disappeared, and the animals did not develop  
resistance to the effects of endostatin after repeated usage.

The discovery that angiogenesis inhibitors such as endostatin  
25 can restrain the growth of primary tumors raises the possibility  
that such inhibitors might also be able to slow tumor  
metastasis.

It has been known for many years that cancer cells originating  
30 in a primary tumor can spread to another organ and form tiny,  
microscopic tumor masses (metastases) that can remain dormant  
for years. A likely explanation for this tumor dormancy is that  
no angiogenesis occurred, so the small tumor lacked the new  
blood vessels needed for continued growth.

35 One possible reason for tumor dormancy may be that some primary  
tumors secrete the inhibitor angiostatin into the bloodstream,  
which then circulates throughout the body and inhibits blood



vessel growth at other sites. This could prevent microscopic metastases from growing into visible tumors.

Additional support for the idea that interfering with the process of angiogenesis can restrain tumor growth has come from genetic studies of mice. Scientists have recently created strains of mice that lack two genes, called Id1 and Id3, whose absence hinders angiogenesis. When mouse breast cancer cells are injected into such angiogenesis-deficient mutant mice, there is a small period of tumor growth, but the tumors regress completely after a few weeks, and the mice remain healthy with no signs of cancer. In contrast, normal mice injected with the same breast cancer cells die of cancer within a few weeks.

When lung cancer cells are injected into the same strain of angiogenesis-deficient mutant mice, the results are slightly different. The lung cancer cells do develop into tumors in the mutant, but the tumors grow more slowly than in normal mice and fail to spread (metastasize) to other organs. As a result, the mutant mice live much longer than normal mice injected with the same kinds of lung cancer cells.

As a result, it is now believed that inhibiting angiogenesis can slow down or prevent the growth and spread of cancer cells in humans, and as a result, a large number of angiogenesis inhibitors are currently being tested in cancer patients.

The inhibitors being tested fall into several different categories, depending on their mechanism of action. Some inhibit endothelial cells directly, while others inhibit the angiogenesis signaling cascade or block the ability of endothelial cells to break down the extracellular matrix.

HAMLET (Human  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin made lethal to tumor cells) is a molecular complex that induces cell death in tumor cells.

~~Indeed, the effect is selective for tumor cells and some~~  
immature cells and healthy, differentiated cells do not undergo cell death in response to HAMLET. This selectivity implies that

HAMLET reaches unique targets in tumor cells, but not in resistant cells.

As used herein, the term "HAMLET" refers to a biologically active complex of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin (which may or may not be human in origin), which is either obtainable by isolation from casein fractions of milk which have been precipitated at pH 4.6, by a combination of anion exchange and gel chromatography as described for example in EP-A-0776214, or by subjecting  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin to ion exchange chromatography in the presence of a cofactor from human milk casein, characterized as C18:1 fatty acid as described in WO99/26979. Variants or derivatives of this complex with similar activity are described for example in International Patent Application No. PCT/IB03/01293.

The cellular targets for HAMLET have been examined by a combination of confocal microscopy and subcellular fractionation [Håkansson et al., 1999 Exp Cell Res. 246, 451-60]. HAMLET binds to the cell surface, and enters the cytoplasm where it interacts with and activates mitochondria. Finally, the protein enters the cell nuclei, where it accumulates.

The applicants have found that resistant and sensitive cells bind HAMLET to their surface with similar efficiency, suggesting that this is not the discriminating event. The nuclear accumulation, in contrast, occurs only in dying cells, suggesting that this step distinguishes sensitive tumour cells from resistant cells. By confocal microscopy, the nuclear accumulation appeared irreversible, suggesting the presence of nuclear targets that bind and retain HAMLET in the nuclear compartment.

What has now been found however is that HAMLET also appears to have an inhibitory effect on angiogenesis, which is believed to be greater than would be expected simply from the tumour killing activity previously noted. This is unexpected in view of the highly selective nature of the cellular effects of the molecule.

As a result, it increases the potential therapeutic range of the complex.

According to the present invention there is provided a  
5 biologically active complex of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin, selected from HAMLET or a biologically active modification thereof, or a biologically active fragment of either of these, in the preparation of a medicament for inhibiting angiogenesis.

10 Such medicaments can be used for treating cancers, and in particular solid cancers, and particularly rapidly proliferating solid tumors. In addition, however, it can be administered systemically to slow tumour metastasis.

15 The mechanism by which HAMLET or a biologically active modification thereof achieves this result is not understood. It may be expected that some effects would be mediated by tumour cells. Specifically, as HAMLET kills tumour cells, the supply of angiogenesis activator molecules is reduced. However, the  
20 effects noted appear to indicate that additional effects are occurring. For instance, it seems possible that HAMLET has a direct effect on rapidly proliferating vascular cells

It may also be used to treat other diseases where angiogenesis  
25 inhibition is desirable.

As a largely naturally occurring protein, it is believed that HAMLET will suffer from lower toxicity than entirely synthetic drugs. Furthermore, the immunogenicity of the complex is  
30 believed to be low.

The  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin may be from various mammalian sources including human, bovine, sheep and goat milk, but is preferably human or bovine, and most preferably human. Recombinant forms  
35 of the  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin may also be employed in the preparation of the biologically active complex.

It has also been found that other reagents and specifically lipids such as oleic acid, are useful in the conversion  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin human  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin to HAMLET. In particular, it has been reported previously that oleic acid (C18:1:9cis) is required for HAMLET production (M. Svensson, et al., (2000) *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*, **97**, 4221-6). More recently, it has been found that other fatty acids may act as co-factors in a similar way. Optimal cofactors for the conversion of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin to HAMLET are C18:1 fatty acids with a double bond in the cis conformation at position 9 or 11.

$\alpha$ -Lactalbumin is a 14.2 kDa globular protein with four  $\alpha$ -helices (residues 1-34, 86-123) and an anti-parallel  $\beta$ -sheet (residues 38-82), linked by four disulphide bonds (61-77; 73-91; 28-111 and 6-120) (K. R. Acharya, et al., (1991) *J Mol Biol*, **221**, 571-81). The native conformation of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin is defined by a high affinity  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binding site, co-ordinated by the side chain carboxylates of Asp82, Asp87 and Asp88, the carbonyl oxygens of Lys79 and Asp84, and two water molecules (K. R. Acharya, et al., (1991) *J Mol Biol*, **221**, 571-81). The protein adopts the so called apo-conformation found in HAMLET when exposed to low pH, or in the presence of chelators, that release the strongly bound  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ion (D. A. Dolgikh, et al., (1981) *FEBS Lett*, **136**, 311-5; K. Kuwajima, (1996) *Faseb J*, **10**, 102-09).

In order to form biologically active complexes,  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin generally requires both a conformational or folding change as well as the presence of a lipid cofactor. The conformational change is suitably effected by removing calcium ions from  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin. In a preferred embodiment, this is suitably facilitated using a variant of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin which does not have a functional calcium binding site.

Biologically active complexes which contain such variants are encompassed by the term "modifications" of HAMLET as used herein. However, the applicants have found that, once formed,

the presence of a functional calcium binding site, and/or the presence of calcium, does not affect stability or the biological activity of the complex. Biologically active complexes have been found to retain affinity for calcium, without loss of activity. Therefore complex of the invention may further  
5 comprise calcium ions.

Thus in particular, the invention uses a biologically active complex comprising alpha-lactalbumin or a variant of alpha-lactalbumin which is in the apo folding state, or a fragment of  
10 either of any of these, and a cofactor which stabilises the complex in a biologically active form, provided that any fragment of alpha-lactalbumin or a variant thereof comprises a region corresponding to the region of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin which forms  
15 the interface between the alpha and beta domains.

Suitably the cofactor is a cis C18:1:9 or C18:1:11 fatty acid or a different fatty acid with a similar configuration.

20 In a particular convenient embodiment, the biologically active complex used in the invention comprises  
(i) a cis C18:1:9 or C18:1:11 fatty acid or a different fatty acid with a similar configuration; and  
(ii)  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin from which calcium ions have been removed, or  
25 a variant of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin from which calcium ions have been released or which does not have a functional calcium binding site; or a fragment of either of any of these, provided that any fragment comprises a region corresponding to the region of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin which forms the interface between the alpha and beta  
30 domains.

As used herein the expression "variant" refers to polypeptides or proteins which are homologous to the basic protein, which is suitably human or bovine  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin, but which differ from  
35 the base sequence from which they are derived in that one or more amino acids within the sequence are substituted for other amino acids. Amino acid substitutions may be regarded as

"conservative" where an amino acid is replaced with a different amino acid with broadly similar properties. Non-conservative substitutions are where amino acids are replaced with amino acids of a different type. Broadly speaking, fewer non-

5 conservative substitutions will be possible without altering the biological activity of the polypeptide. Suitably variants will be at least 60% identical, preferably at least 70%, even more preferably 80% or 85% and, especially preferred are 90%, 95% or 98% or more identity.

10

When comparing amino acid sequences for the purposes of determining the degree of identity, programs such as BESTFIT and GAP (both from Wisconsin Genetics Computer Group (GCG) software package). BESTFIT, for example, compares two sequences and  
15 produces an optimal alignment of the most similar segments. GAP enables sequences to be aligned along their whole length and finds the optimal alignment by inserting spaces in either sequence as appropriate. Suitably, in the context of the present invention when discussing identity of sequences, the  
20 comparison is made by alignment of the sequences along their whole length.

The term "fragment thereof" refers to any portion of the given amino acid sequence which will form a complex with the similar  
25 activity to complexes including the complete  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin amino acid sequence. Fragments may comprise more than one portion from within the full length protein, joined together. Portions will suitably comprise at least 5 and preferably at least 10 consecutive amino acids from the basic sequence.

30 Suitable fragments will be deletion mutants suitably comprise at least 20 amino acids, and more preferably at least 100 amino acids in length. They include small regions from the protein or combinations of these.

35 The region which forms the interface between the alpha and beta domains is, in human  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin, defined by amino acids 34-38 and 82-86 in the structure. Thus suitable fragments will

include these regions, and preferably the entire region from amino acid 34-86 of the native protein.

5 In a particularly preferred embodiment, the biologically active complex comprises a variant of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin in which the calcium binding site has been modified so that the affinity for calcium is reduced, or it is no longer functional.

10 It has been found that in bovine  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin, the calcium binding site is coordinated by the residues K79, D82, D84, D87 and D88. Thus modification of this site or its equivalent in non-bovine  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin, for example by removing one or more of the acidic residues, can reduce the affinity of the site for calcium, or eliminate the function completely and mutants of  
15 this type are a preferred aspect of the invention.

The  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -binding site of bovine  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin consists of a  $3_{10}$  helix and an  $\alpha$ -helix with a short turn region separating the two helices (Acharya K. R., et al., (1991) *J Mol Biol* **221**, 571-581).  
20 It is flanked by two disulfide bridges making this part of the molecule fairly inflexible. Five of the seven oxygen groups that co-ordinate the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  are contributed by the side chain carboxylates of Asp82, 87 and 88 or carbonyl oxygen's of Lys79 and Asp84. Two water molecules supply the remaining two  
25 oxygen's (Acharya K. R., et al., (1991) *J Mol Biol* **221**, 571-581).

Site directed mutagenesis of the aspartic acid at position 87 to alanine (D87A) has previously been shown to inactivate the  
30 strong calcium-binding site (Anderson P. J., et al., (1997) *Biochemistry* **36**, 11648-11654) and the mutant proteins adopted the apo- conformation.

Therefore in a particular embodiment, the aspartic acid residue  
35 ~~at amino acid position 87 within the bovine  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin~~ protein sequence is mutated to a non-acidic residue, and in particular a non-polar or uncharged polar side chain.

Non-polar side chains include alanine, glycine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, proline, phenylalanine, methionine, tryptophan or cysteine. A particularly preferred examples is alanine.

- 5 Uncharged polar side chains include asparagine, glutamine, serine, threonine or tyrosine.

In order to minimize the structural distortion in the mutant protein, D87 has also been replaced by an asparagine (N)  
 10 (Permyakov S. E., et al., (2001) *Proteins Eng* **14**, 785-789), which lacks the non-compensated negative charge of a carboxylate group, but has the same side chain volume and geometry. The mutant protein (D87N) was shown to bind calcium with low affinity ( $K_{Ca2} \times 10^5 M^{-1}$ ) (Permyakov S. E., et al., (2001)  
 15 *Proteins Eng* **14**, 785-789). Such a mutant forms an element of the biologically active complex in a further preferred embodiment of the invention.

Thus particularly preferred variants for use in the complexes of  
 20 the invention are D87A and D87N variants of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin, or fragments which include this mutation.

This region of the molecule differs between the bovine and the human proteins, in that one of the three basic amino acids (R70)  
 25 is changed to S70 in bovine  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin thus eliminating one co-ordinating side chain. It may be preferable therefore, that where the bovine  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin is used in the complex of the invention, an S70R mutant is used.

30 The  $Ca^{2+}$  binding site is 100% conserved in  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin from different species (Acharya K. R., et al., (1991) *J Mol Biol* **221**, 571-581), illustrating the importance of this function for the protein. It is co-ordinated by five different amino acids and two water molecules. The side chain carboxylate of D87 together  
 35 with D88 initially dock the calcium ion into the cation-binding region, and form internal hydrogen bonds that stabilise the structure (Anderson P. J., et al., (1997) *Biochemistry* **36**,



11648-11654). A loss of either D87 or D88 has been shown to impair  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binding, and to render the molecule stable in the partially unfolded state (Anderson P. J., et al., (1997) *Biochemistry* **36**, 11648-11654).

5

Further, mutant proteins with two different point mutations in the calcium-binding site of bovine  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin may be used. For example, substitution of the aspartic acid at position 87 by an alanine (D87A) has been found to totally abolish calcium  
10 binding and disrupt the tertiary structure of the protein. Substitution of the aspartic acid by asparagine, the protein (D87N) still bound calcium but with lower affinity and showed a loss of tertiary structure, although not as pronounced as for the D87A mutant (Permyakov S. E., et al., (2001) *Proteins Eng*  
15 **14**, 785-789). The mutant protein showed a minimal change in packing volume as both amino acids have the same average volume of  $125\text{\AA}^3$ , and the carboxylate side chain of asparagines allow the protein to co-ordinate calcium, but less efficiently (Permyakov S. E., et al., (2001) *Proteins Eng* **14**, 785-789). Both mutant  
20 proteins were stable in the apo-conformation at physiologic temperatures but despite this conformational change they were biologically inactive. The results demonstrate that a conformational change to the apo-conformation alone is not sufficient to induce biological activity.

25

The structure of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin is known in the art, and the precise amino acid numbering of the residues referred to herein can be identified by reference to the structures shown for example in Anderson et al. supra. and Permyakov et al supra.

30

The medicaments produced in accordance with the invention are suitably pharmaceutical compositions in a form suitable for topical use, for example as creams, ointments, gels, or aqueous or oily solutions or suspensions. These may include the  
35 commonly known carriers, fillers and/or expedients, which are pharmaceutically acceptable.

Topical solutions or creams suitably contain an emulsifying agent for the protein complex together with a diluent or cream base.

5 The daily dose of the active compound varies and is dependant on the patient, the nature of the condition being treated etc. in accordance with normal clinical practice. As a general rule from 2 to 200 mg/dose of the biologically active complex is used for each administration.

10 In a further aspect of the invention, there is provided a method for inhibiting angiogenesis which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof, a biologically active complex of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin, selected from HAMLET or a biologically active modification thereof, or a biologically active fragment of  
15 either of these.

Preferred examples of the biologically active complex are illustrated above. Preferably the biologically active complex is administered in the form of a topical composition, also as  
20 described above.

The invention will now be particularly described by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which Figures 1 to 3 show a progressively enlarged tissue section  
25 illustrating the disassembly of blood vessels in a human bladder papilloma after topical HAMLET treatment for 5 days.

#### Example 1

#### 30 Intra-Vesical Instillation Of Hamlet In Patients With Cancer Of The Urinary Bladder

Preparation of substance and randomisation of patients  
Donors of breastmilk were non-smokers and were screened for HIV prior to preparation of HAMLET. Alpha-lactalbumin was purified  
35 from human milk whey by ammonium sulphate precipitation followed by phenyl-Sepharose chromatography and size-exclusion chromatography. Excess milk from the hospital milk bank was used according to regulations for administration to premature

babies. HAMLET was generated from native  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin on an oleic acid conditioned ion-exchange chromatography column, as described in the literature. The eluted fractions were dialysed against distilled water, lyophilised and stored at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

5

Furthermore, HAMLET was screened for bacterial contamination and was stored as dry substance in  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

*Study design:*

- 10 Patients awaiting surgery for a newly diagnosed, or recurrent uro-epithelial cancer of the urinary bladder, were invited to participate in the study. After informed consent the patients were subjected to cystoscopy to assess the tumour size and to document the lesion with endoluminal photography. After  
15 treatment and prior to surgery, cystoscopy was repeated to re-assess tumour size and endoluminal photography was carried out.

Intra-vesical instillation of HAMLET was performed in the out-patient clinic under close surveillance. The instillations were  
20 given once daily, and repeated for five days. After urethral catheterisation the bladder was completely emptied and the urine was collected for analysis. HAMLET (25mg/ml, 30ml) was deposited in the bladder, the catheter removed, and the patients were asked to too keep the instillation for at least for two  
25 hours. To decrease the diuresis the patients were asked to avoid fluid intake for four hours before, and immediately after the instillation. Urine samples were provided prior to, and from the first voided urine after each instillation.

- 30 A biopsy sample of a treated tumour was taken at the end of this treatment, and the results are shown in Figure 1 to 3. As is clear from these figures, the endothelial lining is missing and blood corpuscles are present throughout the core of the tumor, indicating that angiogenesis has been inhibited.

**Claims**

1. The use of a biologically active complex of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin,  
5 selected from HAMLET or a biologically active modification thereof, or a biologically active fragment of either of these, in the preparation of a medicament for use in the inhibition of angiogenesis.
- 10 2. The use according to claim 1 wherein the biologically active complex comprising alpha-lactalbumin or a variant of alpha-lactalbumin which is in the apo folding state, or a fragment of either of any of these, and a cofactor which  
15 stabilises the complex in a biologically active form, provided that any fragment of alpha-lactalbumin or a variant thereof comprises a region corresponding to the region of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin which forms the interface between the alpha and beta domains.
3. The use according to claim 2 wherein the cofactor is a cis  
20 C18:1:9 or C18:1:11 fatty acid or a different fatty acid with a similar configuration.
4. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the  
25 biologically active complex comprises HAMLET, which is obtainable either by isolation from casein fractions of milk which have been precipitated at pH 4.6, by a combination of anion exchange and gel chromatography, or by subjecting  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin to ion exchange chromatography in the presence of a  
30 cofactor from human milk casein, characterized as C18:1 fatty acid.
5. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the  
biologically active complex of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin comprises  
35 (i) a cis C18:1:9 or C18:1:11 fatty acid or a different fatty acid with a similar configuration; and

(ii)  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin from which calcium ions have been removed, or a variant of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin from which calcium ions have been removed or which does not have a functional calcium binding site; or a fragment of either of any of these, provided that any  
5 fragment comprises a region corresponding to the region of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin which forms the interface between the alpha and beta domains.

6. The use according to claim 5 wherein the biologically  
10 active complex includes a variant of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin in which the calcium binding site has been modified so that the affinity for calcium is reduced, or it is no longer functional.

7. The use according to claim 6 wherein the variant has a  
15 mutation at one of the amino acids equivalent to K79, D82, D84, D87 and D88 of bovine  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin.

8. The use according to claim 7 wherein the modification is at  
D87 which includes a variant of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin having a D87A or  
20 D87N variants.

9. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the  
biologically active complex comprises a fragment of  $\alpha$ -  
lactalbumin or a variant thereof, and where the fragment  
25 includes the entire region from amino acid 34-86 of the native protein.

10. The use according to any one of the preceding claims  
wherein the  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin is human or bovine  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin or a  
30 variant of either of these.

11. The use according to claim 10 wherein the  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin is  
human  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin.

12. The use according to claim 10 wherein the  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin is mutant bovine  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin which includes an S70R mutation.

13. The use according to any one of the preceding claims which is for slowing metastasis of tumour cells.

14. A method for inhibiting angiogenesis which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof, a biologically active complex of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin, selected from HAMLET or a biologically active modification thereof, or a biologically active fragment of either of these.

## Abstract

## Novel Therapies

5

The use of a biologically active complex of  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin, selected from HAMLET or a biologically active modification thereof, or a biologically active fragment of either of these, in the preparation of a medicament for use in the inhibition of angiogenesis. Such medicaments may be used in the treatment of various conditions where inhibition of angiogenesis is desirable, including the treatment of malignant or non-malignant tumours, as well in slowing tumour metastasis.

10

1/3

Figure 1

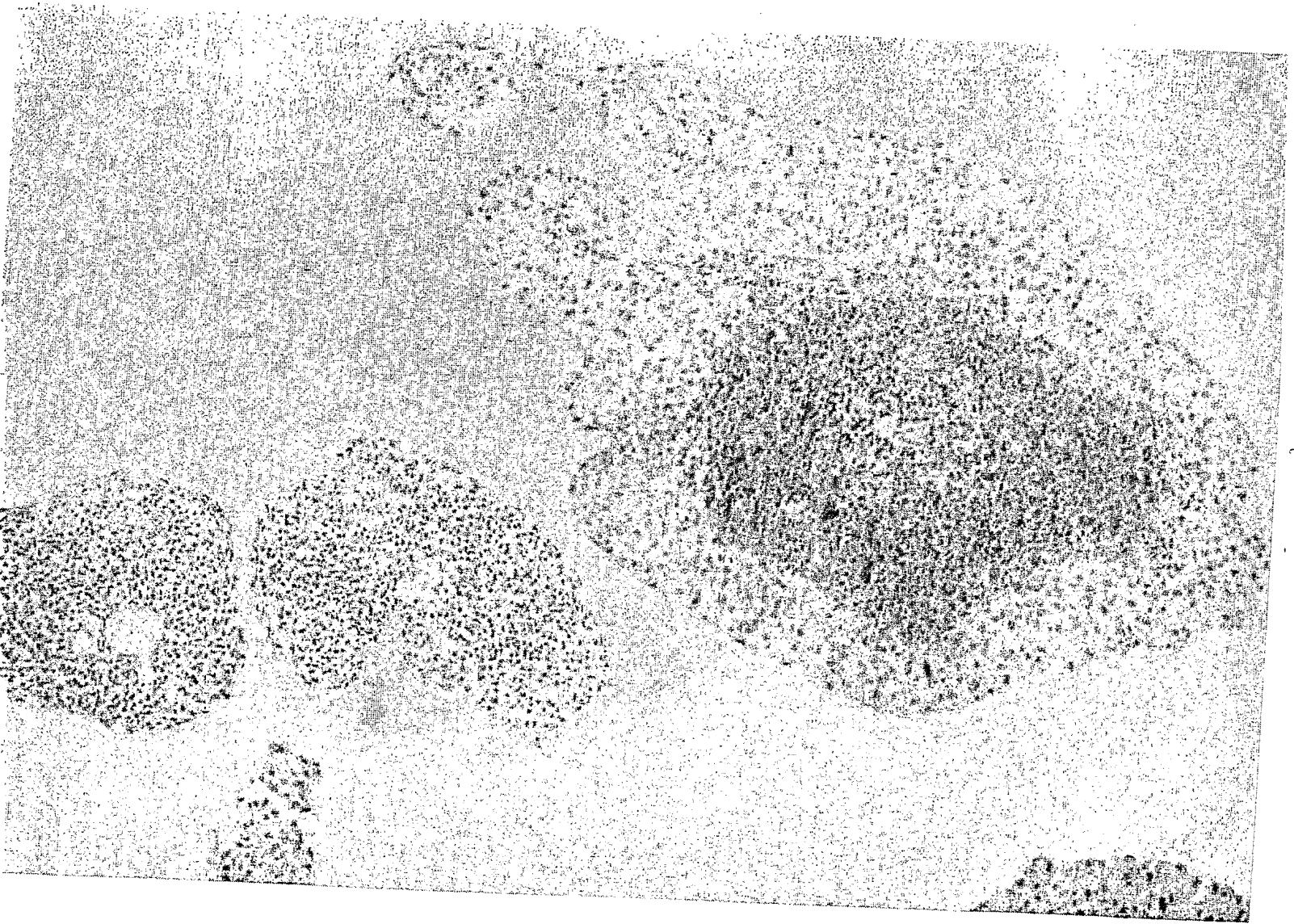






2/3

Figure 2





3/3

Figure 3

